

Whether animals are man's property and whether we can use them in various ways is an issue that has raised heated discussion. **It is generally accepted that we can breed animals for food or as working animals.** For example, horses, mules and cows pull carts, search and rescue dogs are used in rescue operations, bomb or drug sniffing dogs are used in fighting crime, guide dogs help blind people find their way and pets reduce lonely people's depression. **But, there are those who argue that we do not have the right to use animals in any way,** for example, we shouldn't milk cows or get honey from bees.

Using animals for entertainment, for example in circuses and aquariums, is another controversial issue. Some people say that it's useful as we can be educated and amused, while others support that it's cruel and unethical. That's mainly because in circuses, **animals are often mistreated** by trainers to learn their tricks, and they are locked in cramped cages or chained as they travel from city to city. Training methods in aquariums may be more humane, but, still, **the animals are kept captive** in swimming pools which are too small for their size and may suffer from loneliness.

Keeping animals in zoos is equally controversial. **Some people claim that a visit to a zoo has many educational gains and zoos often protect endangered species from poachers and extinction. On the other hand, holding animals in captivity is inhuman** and, although zoos try to replicate the animals' natural habitats, this is virtually impossible, especially when it comes to larger animals, like elephants or hippos.

Last but not least is the issue of **using animals for testing in medical research. Although this involves killing the animals, it is generally accepted that it's a worthwhile practice as it helps researchers find treatments and drugs** whose safety is ensured. **However, there are people who argue that using animals in scientific experiments violates basic rights of the animals.**
